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**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

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SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION	:	
CORPORATION,	:	
Plaintiff-Applicant,	:	Adv. Pro. No. 08-01789 (BRL)
- against -	:	SIPA LIQUIDATION
BERNARD L. MADOFF INVESTMENT	:	(Substantively Consolidated)
SECURITIES LLC,	:	
Defendant.	:	
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In re:	:	
BERNARD L. MADOFF,	:	
Debtor.	:	
-----X		
IRVING H. PICARD, Trustee for the Liquidation	:	
of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC,	:	
Plaintiff,	:	
- against - :	:	Adv. Pro. No. 10-05436 (SMB)
JUST EMPIRE, LLC,	:	<u>JURY TRIAL DEMANDED</u>
Defendant.	:	
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ANSWER AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

Just Empire, LLC ("Defendant"), by and through undersigned counsel, hereby answers the Complaint filed by Irving H. Picard ("Plaintiff"), as trustee for the liquidation of the business of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC ("BLMIS") under the Securities Investor

Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 78aaa, et seq. ("SIPA"), and the substantively consolidated estate of Bernard L. Madoff, individually, ("Madoff"), and in support hereof states as follows:

Pursuant to the *Stipulation and Order Agreeing to Apply Decision in the Omnibus Proceedings to this Adversary Proceeding* entered in this proceeding on August 19, 2015 [ECF No. 38], all counts other than those seeking to avoid and recover initial transfers pursuant to sections 548(a)(1)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code have been dismissed. Therefore, no responses to Counts II - XI are required. To the extent a response is deemed required, the allegations as to such counts are denied.

NATURE OF PROCEEDING

1. This adversary proceeding arises from the massive Ponzi scheme perpetrated by Madoff. Over the course of the scheme, there were more than 8,000 client accounts at BLMIS. In early December 2008, BLMIS generated client account statements for its approximately 4,900 open client accounts. When added together, these statements purport that clients of BLMIS had approximately \$65 billion invested with BLMIS. In reality, BLMIS had assets on hand worth a small fraction of that amount. On March 12, 2009, Madoff admitted to the fraudulent scheme and pled guilty to 11 felony counts, and was sentenced on June 29, 2009 to 150 years in prison, The Defendant received avoidable transfer(s) from BLMIS.

ANSWER: Defendant denies receipt of avoidable transfers from BLMIS and otherwise lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations of Paragraph 1.

2. Defendant was a beneficiary of this Ponzi scheme. Since December 11, 2002, Defendant received the amount of \$7,700,000 from BLMIS, The Trustee's investigation has revealed that \$1,950,000 of this amount represented fictitious profits from the Ponzi scheme,

Accordingly, Defendant has received \$1,950,000 of other people's money. This action is brought to recover the fictitious profit amount so that this customer property can be equitably distributed among all of the victims of BLMIS.

ANSWER: Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 2.

3. This adversary proceeding is brought pursuant to sections 78fff(b), 78fff-1(a) and 78fff-2(c)(3) of SIPA, sections 105(a), 544, 548(a), 550(a) and 551 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), the New York Fraudulent Conveyance Act (New York Debtor and Creditor Law § 270 *et seq.* (McKinney 2001) ("DCL")) and other applicable law, for avoidance of fraudulent conveyances in connection with certain transfers of property by BLMIS to or for the benefit of Defendant. The Trustee seeks to set aside such transfers and preserve and recover the property for the benefit of BLMIS' defrauded customers.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 3.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This is an adversary proceeding commenced before the same Court before whom the main underlying SIPA proceeding, No. 08-01789 (BRL) (the "SIPA Proceeding"), is pending. The SIPA Proceeding was originally brought in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York as *Securities Exchange Commission v. Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC, et al.*, No. 08 CV 10791 (the "District Court Proceeding") and has been referred to this Court. This Court has jurisdiction over this adversary proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 1334(b) and 15 U.S.C. §§ 78eee(b)(2)(A), (b)(4).

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 4.

5. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(A), (H) and (O).

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 5. Pursuant to Local Rule 9027-2, Defendant does not consent to the entry of final orders or judgment by the Bankruptcy Court.

6. Venue in this district is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1409.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 6.

DEFENDANT

7. Upon information and belief, Defendant Just Empire L.L.C. is a Limited Liability Company that was formed under the laws of the state of New York. Its principal place of business is located at 600 Old Country Road, Rm 425, Garden City, New York 11530, Defendant holds a BLMIS account in the name, "Just Empire LLC," with the account address reported as 111 Great Neck Road, Great Neck, New York 11021.

ANSWER: Defendant admits to the allegations of Paragraph 7.

BACKGROUND, THE TRUSTEE AND STANDING

8. On December 11, 2008 (the "Filing Date"),² Madoff was arrested by federal agents for violation of the criminal securities laws, including, *inter alia*, securities fraud, investment adviser fraud, and mail and wire fraud. Contemporaneously, the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") filed a complaint in the District Court which commenced the District Court Proceeding against Madoff and BLMIS. The District Court Proceeding remains

² Section 78lll(7)(B) of SIPA states that the filing date is "the date on which an application for a protective decree is filed under 78eee(a)(3)," except where the debtor is the subject of a proceeding pending before a United States court "in which a receiver, trustee, or liquidator for such debtor has been appointed and such proceeding was commenced before the date on which such application was filed, the term 'filing date' means the date on which such proceeding was commenced." 15 U.S.C. § 78lll(7)(B). Thus, even though the application for a protective decree was filed on December 15, 2008, the Filing Date in this action is December 11, 2008.

pending in the District Court. The SEC complaint alleged that Madoff and BLMIS engaged in fraud through the investment advisor activities of BLMIS.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 8.

9. On December 12, 2008, The Honorable Louis L. Stanton of the District Court entered an order appointing Lee S. Richards, Esq. (the "Receiver") as receiver for the assets of BLMIS.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 9.

10. On December 15, 2008, pursuant to section 78eee(a)(4)(A) of SIPA, the SEC consented to a combination of its own action with an application of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation ("SIPC"). Thereafter, pursuant to section 78eee(a)(4)(B) of SIPA, SIPC filed an application in the District Court alleging, *inter alia*, that BLMIS was not able to meet its obligations to securities customers as they came due and, accordingly, its customers needed the protections afforded by SIPA.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 10.

11. Also on December 15, 2008, Judge Stanton granted the SIPC application and entered an order pursuant to SIPA (the "Protective Decree"), which, in pertinent part:

- (a) appointed the Trustee for the liquidation of the business of BLMIS pursuant to section 78eee(b)(3) of SIPA;
- (b) appointed Baker & Hostetler LLP as counsel to the Trustee pursuant to section 78eee(b)(3) of SIPA; and

(c) removed the case to this Court pursuant to section 78eee(b)(4) of SIPA.

By this Protective Decree, the Receiver was removed as Receiver for BLMIS.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 11.

12. By orders dated December 23, 2008 and February 4, 2009, respectively, the Bankruptcy Court approved the Trustee's bond and found that the Trustee was a disinterested person. Accordingly, the Trustee is duly qualified to serve and act on behalf of the estate of BLMIS.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 12.

13. At a Plea Hearing on March 12, 2009 in the case captioned *United States v. Madoff*, Case No, 09-CR-213(DC), Madoff pled guilty to an eleven-count criminal information filed against him by the United States Attorneys' Office for the Southern District of New York. At the Plea Hearing, Madoff admitted that he "operated a Ponzi scheme through the investment advisory side of [BLMTS]." Plea Allocution of Bernard L. Madoff at 23, *United States v. Madoff*, No. 09-CR-213 (DC) (S.D.N.Y. March 12, 2009) (Docket No. 50). Additionally, Madoff asserted "[a]s I engaged in my fraud, I knew what I was doing [was] wrong, indeed criminal." *Id.* Madoff was sentenced on June 29, 2009 to 150 years in prison.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 13.

14. On August 11, 2009, a former BLMIS employee, Frank DiPascali, pled guilty to participating in and conspiring to perpetuate the Ponzi scheme. At a Plea Hearing on August 11, 2009 in the case entitled *United States v. DiPascali*, Case No. 09-CR-764 (RJS), DiPascali pled

guilty to a ten-count criminal information. Among other things, DiPascali admitted that the fictitious scheme had begun at BLMIS since at least the 1980s. Plea Allocution of Frank DiPascali at 46, *United States v. DiPascali*, No. 09-CR-764 (RJS) (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 11, 2009) (Docket No. 11).

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 14.

15. As the Trustee appointed under SIPA, the Trustee is charged with recovering and paying out customer property to BLMIS' customers, assessing claims, and liquidating any other assets of the firm for the benefit of the estate and its creditors. The Trustee is in the process of marshalling BLMIS' assets, and the liquidation of BLMIS' assets is well underway. However, such assets will not be sufficient to reimburse the customers of BLMIS for the billions of dollars that they invested with BLMIS over the years. Consequently, the Trustee must use his authority under SIPA and the Bankruptcy Code to pursue recovery from customers who received preferences and/or payouts of fictitious profits to the detriment of other defrauded customers whose money was consumed by the Ponzi scheme. Absent this or other recovery actions, the Trustee will be unable to satisfy the claims described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of SIPA section 78fff-2(c)(1).

ANSWER: Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 15.

16. Pursuant to section 78fff- 1(a), the Trustee has the general powers of a bankruptcy trustee in a case under the Bankruptcy Code in addition to the powers granted by SIPA pursuant to SIPA section 78fff(b). Chapters 1, 3, 5 and subchapters I and II of chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code apply to this proceeding to the extent consistent with SIPA.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 16.

17. Pursuant to sections 78fff(b) and 78lll(7)(B) of SIPA, the Filing Date is deemed to be the date of the filing of the petition within the meaning of section 548 of the Bankruptcy Code and the date of the commencement of the case within the meaning of section 544 of the Bankruptcy Code.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 17.

18. The Trustee has standing to bring these claims pursuant to section 78fff-1(a) of SIPA and the Bankruptcy Code, including sections 323(b) and 704(a)(1), because, among other reasons:

- (a) the Defendant received "Customer Property" as defined in 15 U.S.C. §78lll(4);
- (b) BLMIS incurred losses as a result of the claims set forth herein;
- (c) BLMIS' customers were injured as a result of the conduct detailed herein;
- (d) SIPC has not reimbursed, and statutorily cannot fully reimburse, all customers for all of their losses;
- (e) the Trustee will not be able to fully satisfy all claims;
- (f) the Trustee, as bailee of customer property, can sue on behalf of the customer bailors;
- (g) The Trustee is the assignee of claims paid, and to be paid, to customers of BLMIS who have filed claims in the liquidation proceeding (such claim-filing customers, collectively, "Accountholders"). As of the date hereof, the Trustee has received multiple express

unconditional assignments of the applicable Accountholders' causes of action, which actions could have been asserted against Defendant. As assignee, the Trustee stands in the shoes of persons who have suffered injury in fact and a distinct and palpable loss for which the Trustee is entitled to reimbursement in the form of monetary damages. The Trustee brings this action on behalf of, among others, those defrauded customers of BLMIS who invested more money in BLMIS than they withdrew; and

(h) SIPC is the subrogee of claims paid, and to be paid, to customers of BLMIS who have filed claims in the liquidation proceeding. SIPC has expressly conferred upon the Trustee enforcement of its rights of subrogation with respect to payments it has made and is making to customers of BLMIS from SIPC funds.

ANSWER: Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 18.

THE FRAUDULENT PONZI SCHEME

19. Founded in 1959, BLMIS began operations as a sole proprietorship of Madoff and later, effective January 2001, formed as a New York limited liability company wholly owned by Madoff. Since in or about 1986, BLMIS operated from its principal place of business at 885 Third Avenue, New York, New York. Madoff, as founder, proprietor, chairman, and chief executive officer, ran BLMIS together with several family members and a number of additional employees. BLMIS was registered with the SEC as a securities broker-dealer under section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. § 78o(b). By that registration, BLMIS is a member of SIPC. BLMIS had three business units: investment advisory (the "IA Business"), market making and proprietary trading.

ANSWER: Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 19; BLMIS was not formed until 2001.

20. For certain accounts in the IA Business, BLMIS purported to participate in a capital appreciation/depreciation strategy, depending on whether the customer sought to generate gains or losses. For example, the strategy was executed by either purporting to purchase small groups of securities near lows and then purporting to sell those same securities at highs, or by purporting to short-sell securities near highs and then purporting to repurchase those securities near lows.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 20.

21. For other accounts, Madoff described the IA Business' strategy as a "split-strike conversion" strategy. Madoff promised these clients that their funds would be invested in a basket of common stocks within the S&P 100 Index, which is a collection of the 100 largest U.S. publicly traded companies. The basket of stocks would be intended to mimic the movement of the S&P 100 Index. Madoff asserted that he would carefully time purchases and sales to maximize value, but this meant that the clients' funds would intermittently be out of the market, at which times they would purportedly be invested in U.S. issued securities and money market funds. The second part of the split-strike conversion strategy was the hedge of such purchases with option contracts. Madoff purported to purchase and sell S&P 100 Index option contracts that closely corresponded with the stocks in the basket, thereby controlling the downside risk of price changes in the basket of stocks.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 21.

22. Although clients of the IA Business received monthly or quarterly statements purportedly showing the securities that were held in — or had been traded through — their

accounts, as well as the growth of and profit from those accounts over time, the trades reported on these statements were a complete fabrication. The security purchases and sales depicted in the account statements virtually never occurred and the profits reported were entirely fictitious. At his Plea Hearing, Madoff admitted that he never in fact purchased any of the securities he claimed to have purchased for customer accounts. *See Plea Allocution of Bernard L. Madoff at 3, United States v. Madoff*, No. 09-CR-213 (DC) (S.D.N.Y. March 12, 2009) (Docket No. 50). Indeed, based on the Trustee's investigation to date and with the exception of isolated individual trades for certain clients other than Defendant, there is no record of BLMIS having cleared any purchase or sale of securities on behalf of the IA Business at the Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation, the clearing house for such transactions.

ANSWER: Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 22.

23. Prior to his arrest, Madoff assured clients and regulators that he conducted all trades on the over-the-counter market after hours. To bolster that lie, Madoff periodically wired tens of millions of dollars to BLMIS' affiliate, Madoff Securities International Ltd. ("MSIL"), a London based entity substantially owned by Madoff and his family. There are no records that MSIL ever used the wired funds to purchase securities for the accounts of the IA Business clients.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 23.

24. Additionally, based on the Trustee's investigation to date, there is no evidence that BLMIS ever purchased or sold any of the options that Madoff claimed on customer statements to have purchased and sold.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 24.

25. For all periods relevant hereto, the IA Business was operated as a Ponzi scheme and Madoff and his co-conspirators concealed the ongoing fraud in an effort to hinder, delay or defraud other current and prospective customers of BLMIS. The money received from investors was not set aside to buy securities as purported, but instead was primarily used to make the distributions to — or payments on behalf of — other investors. The money sent to BLMIS for investment, in short, was simply used to keep the scheme going and to enrich Madoff, his associates and others, including Defendant, until such time as the requests for redemptions in December 2008 overwhelmed the flow of new investments and caused the inevitable collapse of the Ponzi scheme.

ANSWER: Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 25.

26. The payments to investors constituted an intentional misrepresentation of fact regarding the underlying accounts and were an integral and essential part of the fraud. The payments were necessary to validate the false account statements, and were made to avoid detection of the fraud, to retain existing investors and to lure other investors into the Ponzi scheme.

ANSWER: Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 26.

27. During the scheme, certain investors requested and received distributions of the so-called "profits" listed for their accounts which were nothing more than fictitious profits. Other investors, from time to time, redeemed or closed their accounts, or removed portions of purportedly available funds, and were paid consistently with the statements they had been

receiving. Some of those investors later re-invested part or all of those withdrawn payments with BLMIS.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 27.

28. When payments were made to or on behalf of these investors, including Defendant, the falsified monthly statements of accounts reported that the accounts of such investors included substantial gains. In reality, BLMIS had not invested the investors' principal as reflected in customer statements. In an attempt to conceal the ongoing fraud and thereby hinder, delay or defraud other current and prospective investors, BLMIS paid to or on behalf of certain investors the inflated amounts reflected in the falsified financial statements, including principal and/or fictitious profits.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 28.

29. BLMIS used the funds deposited from new investments to continue operations and pay redemption proceeds to or on behalf of other investors and to make other transfers. Due to the siphoning and diversion of new investments to fund redemptions requested by other investors, BLMIS did not have the funds to pay investors on account of their new investments. BLMIS was able to stay afloat only by using the principal invested by some clients to pay other investors or their designees.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 29.

30. In an effort to hinder, delay or defraud authorities from detecting the fraud, BLMIS did not register as an Investment Advisor until September 2006.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 30.

31. In or about January 2008, BLMIS filed with the SEC a Uniform Application for Investment Adviser Registration. The application represented, *inter alia*, that BLMIS had 23 customer accounts and assets under management of approximately \$17.1 billion. In fact, in January 2008, BLMIS had approximately 4,900 active client accounts with a purported value of approximately \$65 billion under management.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 31.

32. Not only did Madoff seek to evade regulators, Madoff also had false audit reports "prepared" by Friehling & Horowitz, a three-person accounting firm in Rockland County, New York. Of the two accountants at the firm, one was semi-retired and living in Florida for many years prior to the Filing Date.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 32.

33. At all times relevant hereto, the liabilities of BLMIS were billions of dollars greater than the assets of BLMIS. At all relevant times, BLMIS was insolvent in that (i) its assets were worth less than the value of its liabilities; (ii) it could not meet its obligations as they came due; and (iii) at the time of the transfers, BLMIS was left with insufficient capital.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 33.

THE TRANSFERS

34. According to BLMIS' records, an account (No. 1KW261) was maintained with BLMIS, as set forth on Exhibit A (the "Account"). Upon information and belief, for the Account, a Customer Agreement, an Option Agreement, and/or a Trading Authorization Limited to Purchases and Sales of Securities and Options (collectively, the "Account Agreements") were executed and delivered to BLMIS at BLMIS' headquarters at 885 Third Avenue, New York, New York.

ANSWER: Defendant admits the allegations of Paragraph 34.

35. The Account Agreements were to be performed in New York, New York through securities trading activities that would take place in New York, New York. The Account was held in New York, New York, and Defendant sent funds to BLMIS and/or to BLMIS' account at JPMorgan Chase & Co., Account #xxxxxxxxxxxx1703 (the "BLMIS Bank Account") in New York, New York for application to the Account and the purported conducting of trading activities. Between the date the Account was opened and the Filing Date, Defendant made deposits to BLMIS through checks and/or wire transfers into the BLMIS Bank Account and/or received inter-account transfers from other BLMIS accounts.

ANSWER: Defendant denies the allegations of paragraph 35 to the extent that BLMIS was not formed until 2001 and otherwise lack knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief to the truth of the allegations.

36. During the six years prior to the Filing Date, BLMIS made transfers (collectively, the "Transfers") to Defendant totaling at least \$1,950,000 in fictitious profits from the Ponzi scheme. The Transfers received by Defendant constitute non-existent profits supposedly earned

in the Account, but, in reality, they were other people's money. The Transfers were made to or for the benefit of Defendant and are set forth in Columns 10 and 11 on Exhibit B annexed hereto.

ANSWER: Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 36.

37. The Transfers that are avoidable and recoverable under sections 548(a), 550(a)(1) and 551 of the Bankruptcy Code and applicable provisions of SIPA, particularly SIPA section 78ffff-2(c)(3) total at least \$1,700,000 and are referred to hereafter as the "Two Year Transfers." *See Exhibit B, Column 10,* The Transfers that are avoidable and recoverable under sections 544(b), 550(a)(1) and 551 of the Bankruptcy Code, applicable provisions of SIPA, particularly SIPA section 78ffff-2(c)(3), and applicable provisions of N.Y. CPLR 203(g) (McKinney 2001) and DCL sections 273 — 279 (McKinney 2001) total at least \$1,950,000 and are referred to hereafter as the "Six Year Transfers." *See Exhibit B, Column 11.*

ANSWER: Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 37.

38. The Trustee's investigation is ongoing and the Trustee reserves the right to (i) supplement the information regarding the Transfers, Subsequent Transfers, and any additional transfers and (ii) seek recovery of such additional transfers.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 38.

39. To the extent that any of the avoidance and/or recovery counts may be inconsistent with each other, they are to be treated as being pled in the alternative.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 39.

CUSTOMER CLAIMS

40. On or about February 23, 2009, Defendant filed a customer claim with the Trustee which the Trustee has designated as Claim # 003222 (the "Customer Claim"). In addition, on or about June 30 and July 1, 2009, Defendant filed two additional customer claims with the Trustee which the Trustee has designated as Claim # 100253 and Claim # 100355 (together with the Customer Claim, the "Customer Claims").

ANSWER: Defendant admits the allegations of Paragraph 40.

41. On or about August 31, 2009, the Trustee issued a Notice of Trustee's Determination of Claim to Defendant (the "Determination") with respect to the Customer Claims. A copy of the Determination is attached hereto as Exhibit C³.

ANSWER: Defendant admits the allegations of Paragraph 41.

42. On or about September 21, 2009, the Defendant filed an objection to the Determination with the Court (the "Claims Objection").

ANSWER: Defendant admits the allegations of Paragraph 42.

43. On December 23, 2008, this Court entered an Order on Application for Entry of an Order Approving Form and Manner of Publication and Mailing of Notices, Specifying Procedures for Filing, Determination and Adjudication of Claims, and Providing Other Relief ("Claims Procedures Order"; Docket No. 12). The Claims Procedures Order includes a process for determination and allowance of claims under which the Trustee has been operating. The Trustee intends to resolve the Customer Claims and Claims Objection to the Trustee's determination of such claim through a separate hearing as contemplated by the Claims Procedures Order.

³ The methodology for calculating total deposits and withdrawals has changed since the determination letter was issued.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 43.

COUNT ONE
FRAUDULENT TRANSFER — 11 U.S.C. 548(a)(1)(A), 550(a) AND 551

44. To the extent applicable, the Trustee incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the previous paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully rewritten herein.

ANSWER: Defendant repeats the answers heretofore stated.

45. Each of the Two Year Transfers was made on or within two years before the Filing Date.

ANSWER: Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 45.

46. Each of the Two Year Transfers constituted a transfer of an interest of BLMIS in property within the meaning of section 101(54) of the Bankruptcy Code and pursuant to section 78fff-2(c)(3) of SIPA.

ANSWER: Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 46.

47. Each of the Two Year Transfers was made by BLMIS with the actual intent to hinder, delay or defraud some or all of BLMIS' then existing and/or future creditors.

ANSWER: Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 47.

48. Each of the Two Year Transfers constitutes a fraudulent transfer avoidable by the Trustee pursuant to section 548(a)(1)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code and recoverable from Defendant pursuant to section 550(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and section 78fff-2(c)(3) of SIPA.

ANSWER: Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 48.

49. As a result of the foregoing, pursuant to sections 548(a)(1)(A), 550(a), and 551 of the Bankruptcy Code and section 78fff-2(c)(3) of SIPA, the Trustee is entitled to a judgment

against Defendant: (a) avoiding and preserving the Two Year Transfers, (b) directing that the Two Year Transfers be set aside, and (c) recovering the Two Year Transfers, or the value thereof, from Defendant for the benefit of the estate of BLMIS.

ANSWER: Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 49.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

1. The Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.
2. The transfers from BLMIS or Madoff to Defendant made prior to two years from the Filing Date are shielded from avoidance under the safe harbor provision of section 546(e) of the Bankruptcy Code.
3. Defendant gave, and BLMIS or Madoff received, reasonably equivalent value in exchange for the transfers alleged in the Complaint.
4. Defendant took the transfers alleged in the Complaint for value and in good faith on account of a valid antecedent debt as contemplated by 11 U.S.C. Section 548(c).
5. The Complaint violates Rules 8(a)(2) and 9(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 129 S. Ct. 1937 (2009), and *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544 (2007).
6. The Trustee lacks standing, in whole or in part, to bring the claims asserted because he lacks Article III injury.
7. The claims are not ripe because they do not meet the conditions of section 78fff-2(c)(3) of SIPA. The Trustee has not established that there is a shortfall in customer property.
8. The transfers are not avoidable and/or recoverable because the funds at issue were not property of the bankruptcy estate in which BLMIS or Madoff had a legal interest. *See In re Enron*, 2002 WL 32772482 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2002)

9. The payments received by the Defendant were taken without actual fraudulent intent and for fair consideration, as provided by section 278(2) of the New York Debtor and Creditor Law. They are thus not avoidable or recoverable as against the Defendant under sections 544 and 550 of the Bankruptcy Code or sections 272 through 276 of the New York Debtor and Creditor Law.

10. The payments received by the Defendant were taken for fair consideration and without knowledge of the fraud, as provided by section 278(1) of the New York Debtor and Creditor Law. They are thus not avoidable or recoverable as against the Defendant under Sections 544 and 550 of the Bankruptcy Code or sections 272 through 276 of the New York.

11. The Trustee's claims are barred in whole or part by applicable statutes of limitations.

12. The Defendant is entitled to setoff, recoupment, and/or equitable adjustment because each year Defendant was required to pay taxes on the fictitious profits" reported on, among other things, IRS Form 1099 and other information reported by BLMIS or Madoff to the Internal Revenue Service, state and/or local governmental taxing authorities.

13. Each claim for recovery of a fraudulent transfer is subject to setoff or equitable adjustment because the Defendant received such transfer in good faith, without knowledge of the alleged fraud, and in payment of an antecedent debt, in whole or in part, on account of obligations owed by BLMIS or Madoff for, inter alia, (a) amounts contractually due to customers under New York law for the balances shown on prior customer account statements and related documents; (b) rescission remedies, including damages and interest for fraud and misrepresentation pursuant to federal and state law; (c) the time value of money; (d) unjust enrichment; (e) damages for breach of fiduciary duty; and/or (f) money had and received.

14. The Defendant is entitled to full credit for any purported account balance at the beginning of the statute of limitations period.

15. The Trustee's claims are barred by estoppel, waiver, or laches.

16. The Trustee's claims are barred by the doctrine of in pari delicto and other related equitable defenses.

17. Madoff and/or BLMIS was not a Ponzi scheme at all relevant times.

18. The Trustee's claims are barred, in whole or part, because BLMIS or Madoff was not insolvent at the time of each of the transfers allegedly received by the Defendant and BLMIS or Madoff did not become insolvent as a result of such transfers.

19. The Trustee's claims are barred in whole or part because they depend upon calculations that improperly attempt to avoid transfers that occurred outside the statutory reach back periods for the avoidance of transfers.

20. The Trustee's claims are barred in whole or part for failure to properly credit inter-account transfers, profit withdrawals, and other adjustments.

21. The Trustee's claims are barred in whole or part for failure to properly account for the time value of money through an interest adjustment to principal deposits.

22. The Complaint fails to state a claim on which relief can be granted because it fails to sufficiently trace the funds at issue from BLMIS or Madoff to the Defendant.

23. Recovery of attorneys' fees from the Defendant is not permissible under sections 544 and 550 of the Bankruptcy Code and section 276-a of the New York Debtor and Creditor Law because such fees are not a "transfer" or "conveyance" under applicable law.

24. Even if the Trustee is entitled to the return of some or all of the transfers, he is not entitled to interest from the date of each alleged transfer.

25. The claims, other than the 11 U.S.C. § 548(a)(1)(a) claims, are barred in whole or part by res judicata, collateral estoppel, and/or issue preclusion.

26. The Complaint is barred, in whole or in part, because the Trustee has failed to plead all of the elements of fraudulent transfer under sections 548(a)(1)(A) and 548(a)(1)(B) of the Bankruptcy Code with sufficient particularity and factual support.

27. The Complaint is barred, in whole or in part, because the Trustee has failed to plead all of the elements of fraudulent transfer under section 544 of the Bankruptcy Code and sections 273, 274, 275, 276, 276-a, 278 and/or 279 of the New York Debtor and Creditor Law with sufficient particularity and factual support.

28. BLMIS or Madoff purchased securities with the Defendant's money, even if those securities were not allocated on BLMIS' or Madoff's records to the Defendant's account therefore, the Defendant has a constructive trust, or equitable claim to such securities and their proceeds, including sums transferred to the Defendant.

29. The withdrawals that the Trustee seeks to recover were legally compelled under State and federal securities laws.

30. Customers are entitled to 9% interest from the date of deposit under New York law and under the Securities Exchange Act.

31. The Trustee lacks standing because BLMIS was not formed until 2001 and the orders of the District Court and the Bankruptcy Court did not give the Trustee authority to recover fraudulent transfers of Bernard Madoff.

32. There can be no liability of any recipient of funds who, as a matter of law or contract, was required to transfer any portion of the funds to a third party. Thus, for example, any

funds transferred by the Defendant to the IRS in payment of taxes with respect to the Transfers should not be recoverable from the Defendant.

33. The Trustee's claims are barred by any applicable statute of repose.

34. Defendant is entitled to full-dollar credit for all deposits made within the reach back period.

35. The Trustee has failed to treat the Just Empire as a separate entity as required under SIPA law. The account number 1KW261 was created on or about June 3, 1999. This account was originally opened and owned by R&J Company, LLC who owned the account until January 31, 2005. All transfers made prior to January 31, 2005 were made to R&J Company, LLC and not to the Defendant.

36. The Trustee takes an inconsistent position as to related entities; he treats entities with similar owners as one consolidated entity when advantageous, however, when it reduces liability of defendants, the Trustee treats the similar owners separately. The Trustee has disregarded, amongst other relationships, the relatedness between Just Empire and Josef Mittlemann, a defendant in Adversary Proceeding Case No. 10-04404.

Defendant asserts the foregoing affirmative defenses and reserve the right to amend this Answer to assert other and further defenses when and if, in the course of the investigation, discovery, or preparation for trial it becomes appropriate. By designating these matters as "defenses," Defendant does not relieve the Trustee of proving under the appropriate standard of proof all elements of any claim alleged. Defendant does not undertake any burdens that properly rest upon the Trustee, and do not suggest either that the Trustee does not bear the burden of proof as to such matters or that such matters are not elements that he must establish in order to make out a *prima facie* case against Defendant.

Defendant further adopts and incorporates by reference any and all other defenses asserted or to be asserted by any other defendant or party-in-interest to the extent that Defendant is similarly situated and may properly assert such defense.

WHEREFORE, Defendant respectfully requests that the Complaint be dismissed as against Defendant, and that costs be awarded against the Trustee.

Dated: New York, NY
September 17, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

AKERMAN LLP

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